

completed a thesis on government drones and the Department of Defense's abilities to respond to homeland disasters. After a rigorous 18-month online and in-residence program, lieutenant colonel Jonkey graduated from the CHDS program on December 16, 2016.

I commend lieutenant colonel Jonkey for his unwavering dedication to his career and his courageous contributions to Nevada. His character is truly admirable and stands as a shining example for future generations. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I applaud lieutenant colonel Jonkey's steadfast allegiance to the Silver State and his determination to complete this highly esteemed milestone.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating lieutenant colonel Matt Jonkey for his recent achievement and his service to Nevada. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT K. SCHRATZ

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th birthday of Robert K. Schratz, a WWII veteran and an incredible family man. I am proud to honor him for reaching such an impressive milestone in his life, and I want to acknowledge his unwavering courage and service to our Nation.

Mr. Schratz, an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout, was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on January 25, 1917. As a graduate from Carnegie Tech with a degree in civil engineering, Schratz went on to work for the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad as a design engineer. However, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1944, Schratz graduated from the Air Corps as a multiengine pilot and a second lieutenant. He flew over 168 missions, including the Berlin Airlift, and served a 4-year Pentagon assignment. Over several years, Schratz was stationed all over the world, including Texas, Mississippi, Washington, DC, Alabama, England, Germany, and Japan. Schratz was also stationed at Stead Air Force Base in Nevada, a place he truly admired and would eventually call home. After retiring from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel, Schratz and his beloved wife, Barbara, permanently moved to Reno, NV, where Schratz worked for the City of Reno Engineer's office for over a decade.

As a World War II veteran, Schratz's commitment to his country and his dedication to his family and community will be preserved for generations to come. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility to honor these brave individuals, and I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Additionally, I am pleased to recognize Schratz for passing on his legacy of serving our country through several generations. Lieutenant Colonel Schratz's son, Robert K. Schratz II, served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps while his son, Mark Schratz, also served in the U.S. Air Force. His grandson, Wayne Cates, served in the U.S. Navy, and his great-granddaughter, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Emily Cates, currently serves in the U.S. Navy. I truly commend these members of the Schratz family and am grateful for their devotion to protecting our Nation's freedoms.

I applaud Robert K. Schratz for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. Today I am honored to commend Mr. Schratz and celebrate an inspiring milestone achieved by such an upstanding Nevadan.●

#### RECOGNIZING KIT'S KITCHEN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a great small business and charitable organization that is leading by example, serving the community, and making a difference in the great State of Nevada. Chanthy Walsh and her husband own a nonprofit restaurant called KIT's Kitchen, which is located in Henderson, NV. The name stems from the nonprofit foundation they run called Kids in Transition. Both organizations work side by side to help those in need.

Since November 2016, KIT's Kitchen has been training underprivileged youth, while providing affordable meals to the local community. This restaurant provides its volunteers with real work experience and teaches them what it takes to succeed in the restaurant and hospitality industry. To me, it is more than just learning about the restaurant; these kids are being taught hard work, about giving back to their community, and what it means to make a commitment and be held accountable to it—values that go beyond the workplace.

In addition to their impressive restaurant, Mrs. Walsh and her husband, Tim, direct a nonprofit called the Kids in Transition Foundation, which is designed to help young people build a successful career. This foundation provides meals, scholarships, financial aid, and mentoring advice to Nevada's youth. Together, these efforts are building a better future for Nevada.

As a father, I understand firsthand how much of an asset Chanthy Walsh and her work is to the Silver State. Considering these young Nevadans are the future, I am proud to see Ms. Walsh strive to make Nevada brighter every single day. It is this dedication to community and giving back that makes a difference in so many people's lives.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me and recognizing this organization, its employees, and its impressive leader. Chanthy Walsh provides an outstanding service to the local community and to our great State. As Nevada's senior Senator, I am humbled by her efforts and a true commitment to making a difference in people's lives. I hope others can look to her for inspiration on how to make their community a better place for everyone.●

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

I am fortunate to represent Maryland, a State that plays a leading role in science, technology, and innovation. From NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Maryland is at the frontier of discovery and innovation. Among Maryland's leaders in space, science, and innovation is the Applied Physics Laboratory, or APL.

From its humble beginnings in a converted auto dealership in Silver Spring, MD, to its current state-of-the-art facility in Howard County, APL has designed, built, and launched countless spacecraft and instruments. Like the Goddard Space Flight Center, APL provides a great economic boost for Maryland, employing thousands of Marylanders and generating \$1 billion in annual revenues. APL serves both civil and national security clients, in areas from homeland protection and undersea warfare to missile systems and biomedicine.

Early on the morning of July 14, 2015, along with representatives from NASA and the Southwest Research Institute, and my old friend Dr. Tom Krimigis, I was able to visit APL to witness the Pluto flyby of the spacecraft New Horizons. I waited eagerly as New Horizons flew 7,800 miles above the surface of Pluto, making it the first spacecraft to explore the dwarf planet. The excitement and pride in the room was palpable. Maryland and the Applied Physics Laboratory were once again playing a critical role in the history of human discovery.

I am grateful for the work that APL has done. And I look forward to the work that APL will continue to do, well into the future. I join my Colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN, in sponsoring a resolution congratulating the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab on the 75th anniversary of the Lab's founding.

Humanity has long asked: From where did we come? And are we alone? Places like APL will help us answer fundamental questions like these. I am proud to represent them here in the